

Amendment to the Specification

Replace the paragraph beginning on line 5 of page 10 with:

In a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the targeting construct is prepared directly from a plasmid genomic library using the methods described in pending U.S. Patent no. 6,815,185 issued November 9, 2004, which is based on U.S. Patent Application No. 09/885,816, filed June 19, 2001, which is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 09/193,834, filed November 17, 1998, now abandoned, which claims priority to provisional application no. 60/084,949, filed on May 11, 1998, and provisional application no. 60/084,194 and U.S. Patent Application Ser. No.: 08/971,310, filed November 17, 1997, which was converted to provisional application 60/684,194, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein in its entirety. Generally, a sequence of interest is identified and isolated from a plasmid library in a single step using, for example, long-range PCR. Following isolation of this sequence, a second polynucleotide that will disrupt the target sequence can be readily inserted between two regions encoding the sequence of interest. In accordance with this aspect, the construct is generated in two steps by (1) amplifying (for example, using long-range PCR) sequences homologous to the target sequence, and (2) inserting another polynucleotide (for example a selectable marker) into the PCR product so that it is flanked by the homologous sequences. Typically, the vector is a plasmid from a plasmid genomic library. The completed construct is also typically a circular plasmid.